

***Antennaria corymbosa* (E. Nels.)**

meadow pussy-toes
Asteraceae (Aster Family)

Status: State Threatened

Rank: G5S1

General Description: A mat-forming perennial 2-16 in. (5-40 cm) tall with rhizomatous roots. The stem leaves are few, alternate, grayish-green and wooly on both sides. The inflorescence is flat-topped and bright white or slightly sordid. The involucre measure less than 1/5 of an in. (about 4-7 mm) and are green and loosely wooly at the base. The involucre bracts are blackish or brown-tipped.

Identification Tips: While this species is similar to the common *A. rosea*, the major distinguishable characteristic is the conspicuous black or brown spot below the terminal portion of the involucre bracts. *A. corymbosa* also has narrower leaves and thinner pubescence than *A. rosea*. Another important factor is habitat: *A. corymbosa* thrives in moist areas at mid elevations, while other species of *Antennaria* inhabit dry, open areas and rarely extend beyond the foothills.

Phenology: *A. corymbosa* flowers only in June and July; however, the bracts persist until August or September.

Range: Occurs from southwestern Montana and central Idaho to Utah and Colorado into eastern Oregon and California. Peripheral in north-eastern Washington; it is known only from the Sullivan Lake Ranger District of the Colville National Forest in Pend Oreille County.

Habitat: Grows in thick colonies forming mats by extending horizontal stolons. It is found in moist meadows, streamsides, and moist, open woodlands at mid-elevation in the mountains as well as transition zones into drier habitat. Colonies average about 4 ft. by 8 ft. (1½ – 2½ m) in size. The Washington occurrence has the following associated vegetation: grey sedge (*Carex canescens*), alpine timothy (*Phleum alpinum*), scrub birch (*Betula glandulosa*), elephant's head (*Pedicularis groenlandica*), grouseberry (*Vaccinium scoparium*), and many-spiked cottongrass (*Eriophorum polystachion*).

Ecology: *Antennaria corymbosa* tends to grow in dense colonies around and under patches of Engelmann spruce (*Picea engelmannii*). The species is dependent on the maintenance of an appropriate hydrologic regime.

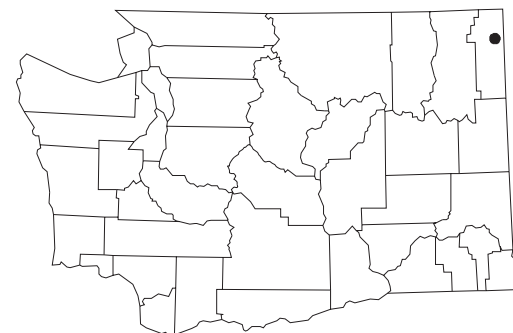
Antennaria corymbosa

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Illustration by John Rumley

Known distribution of
Antennaria corymbosa
in Washington



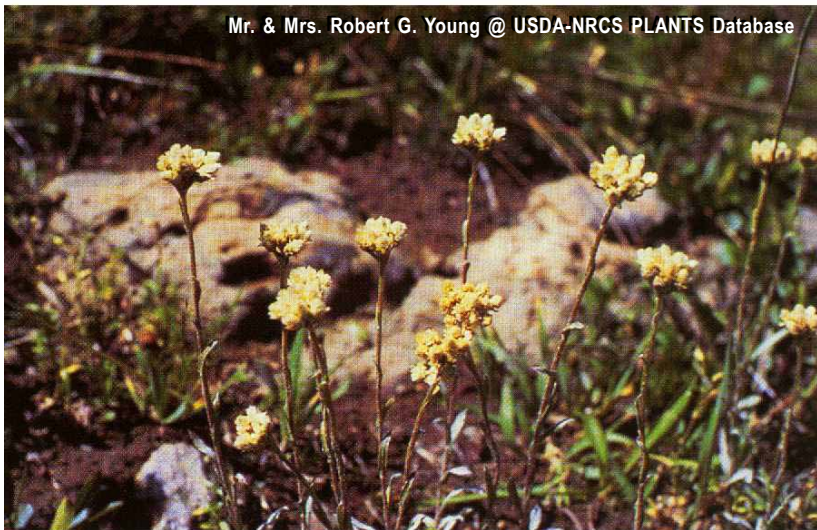
- Current (1980+)
- Historic (older than 1980)

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Photo by Jeff Abbas



Mr. & Mrs. Robert G. Young @ USDA-NRCS PLANTS Database

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State Status Comments: Very rare. Known from one population in Washington. Last observed in 1993.

Inventory Needs: Additional inventory is needed, as well as more specific information to determine if plants are reproducing sexually or strictly vegetatively. The one known site should be revisited to determine the extent and condition of the population.

Threats and Management Concerns: Threats include grazing, alteration of hydrologic regime, and herbicides.

References:

Hitchcock, C.L., A. Cronquist, M. Ownbey, and J.W. Thompson. 1964. *Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest, Part 5: Compositae*. University of Washington Press, Seattle. 343 pp.

Washington Natural Heritage Program. 1981. *An Illustrated Guide to the Endangered, Threatened and Sensitive Vascular Plants of Washington*. Washington State Department of Natural Resources. 328 pp.

USDA-NRCS. 2004. The PLANTS Database (<http://plants.usda.gov/plants>). National Plant Data Center, Baton Rouge, LA 70874-4490 USA.